

Community Connection

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- Steve Gwaltney
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- Jaime Toppe, *Executive Director*
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Casey Brewster Welcomed to Board of Directors



We welcomed Casey Brewster to our Board of Directors, effective Oct. 1.

Casey has been married to Jaye (Busick) for 30 years. Jaye was a 1988 graduate of Scottsburg High School and is a teacher at Scottsburg Middle School. They are the

parents of Alexa (Blake) Bischoff, Olivia Brewster, and Isabela Brewster. They are the grandparents of Ellie and Brewster Bischoff.

Casey received his bachelor’s degree in education in 1996 from Indiana University, his master’s degree in education from Indiana Wesleyan in 2000, and his Educational Specialist degree from IU in 2005. He is employed as the assistant superintendent and CFO at Scott County School District 2. His career in education has spanned 26 years, including teaching elementary and secondary students as well as serving as a school administrator at the elementary, secondary and district levels.

Casey actively serves on the board of directors for Centerstone Health Services. He is a longtime member of multiple state and national educational and financial associations. Casey’s service to the Foundation started in 2019 as a member of the Finance and Investment Committee. During his free time, he enjoys spending time with family, hiking, chasing grandkids, and supporting students, family and friends in all their school and other activities.

“I have strongly-held beliefs which align well with the purpose of the Scott County Community Foundation,” shared Casey. “It’s important to me that the needs of the community are met using our collective resources – our time, our

knowledge, our experience, our financial resources/gifts and most importantly, our abilities to love and support one another. When those resources are able to benefit both our community today, as well as in perpetuity for future generations, the lasting legacy and positive impact is overwhelming and impossible to ignore. I’m honored to be able to commit myself and resources in service to the Community Foundation for the benefit of others for generations to come.”

“The Scott County Community Foundation Board of Directors is thrilled to gain Casey as the newest member of our Board,” said Board Chairwoman Melissa Woods. “He brings a wealth of knowledge to the table and is a true community leader. His expertise in education and finance will further strengthen our Board as we navigate through making important decisions that positively impact our community.”



We also said “farewell” to our outgoing Board Chairperson Heather White. Heather started her service to the Community Foundation in 2010 as a YGC mom when her sons Tyler and Caleb joined the Youth Grantmaking Council. She became a member of our Grants Committee in 2014 and then joined the Board of Directors in 2016. We appreciate everything Heather does for our community!

Abby Colson Serves as Guidance Intern



We recently welcomed Abby Colson as our newest Career and College Counselor intern. This opportunity is funded by Lilly Endowment through the Community Foundation Internships Program (CFI). The program

intends to build strong community foundations, as well as provide significant internship opportunities for college students who are eager to advance their educational and personal development.

Abby's duties involve counseling students at Austin and Scottsburg high schools with career and college choices, scholarship and financial aid opportunities, assisting students with the 21st Century Scholarship requirements, coordinating job shadowing/internship opportunities, coordinating college visits and more.

Abby attends Indiana University Southeast and is working towards a bachelor's degree in secondary education. She has spent the last few years becoming involved in organizations on her college campus such as Cru, working for Scott County School District 2 as a substitute teacher and Assistant Girl's Soccer Coach, and exploring Spain as part of a summer study abroad program. In her free time, Abby

loves to play ultimate frisbee with her club team, the Indiana Pterodactyl Attack.

"I have always known that I was meant to be a teacher," said Abby. "I have a passion for helping kids see their true potential, and I absolutely love being a part of the moment when knowledge 'clicks' for students."

"I am excited for the experiences that this internship will provide as I am becoming the best teacher I can be for my future students," said Abby. "This internship is an incredible opportunity for me as I am wrapping up my time at Indiana University Southeast. It will allow me to branch out and begin to understand the responsibilities that are shared by the professionals in the field that I plan to graduate into next year. Additionally, I will be creating relationships with students and establishing boundaries which will be vital skills to obtain before entering the field fully."

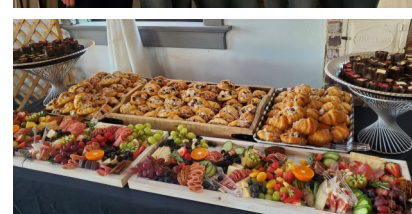
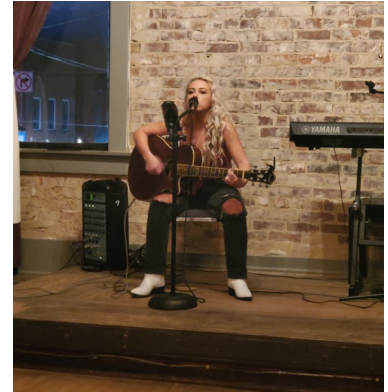
"The Community Foundation Internship program has been a great opportunity for our community, and we are thankful to Lilly Endowment Inc. for providing the funding," said Scott County Community Foundation Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "Abby is the 23rd student to benefit from the internship program since it was created 12 years ago. I know what a great addition she will be, as she served on the Community Foundation's Youth Grantmaking Council during high school. Her outgoing personality will make her a great asset for the schools."

Guests Enjoy Fantastic Talent at Homegrown Music Fest

Guests were treated to amazing music at our Homegrown Music Fest fundraiser held September 17 in the Java Station 56 ballroom.

Local musicians Stephen Sullivan, Brian Allen, Brooke Hall, Kayla Griffen and Jackson Snelling performed a variety of songs and greatly impressed all in attendance!

We want to thank our Grammy Award sponsors: Duke Energy, Ivy Tech Community College, New Washington State Bank, Scott County School District 2 and Scott Memorial Health. Thank you to Java Station 56 for hosting us.



New Fund Benefits Scottsburg FFA



A local student organization will now benefit financially from a new endowment fund established at the Scott County Community Foundation to support agriculture.

The Scottsburg FFA Chapter was chartered in 1946. It is a part of the National FFA organization, formally known as Future Farmers of America, which was established less than 20 years before in 1928. The student-lead organization provides numerous leadership development opportunities, according to FFA advisor Anna Hall, who was also a member of FFA while a student at Scottsburg High School.

"FFA was founded in agriculture to prepare members to become farmers," shared Hall. She explained that the organization shifted its focus to science and leadership, while still staying true to its rich history in agriculture. "FFA has grown into the largest youth organization in the nation, which provides endless opportunities for students to learn more about the science of agriculture and develop lifelong leadership skills."

The local chapter has 50 active members. Members participate in many different leadership development activities and career development contests at the local and state level. The chapter is also involved in many local community service projects, such as hosting a mini petting zoo for nursing home residents. In the past, members have served in district, section, and state leadership positions. Members also regularly attend state and national conventions and state leadership conferences.

"In order to participate in FFA, students must be enrolled in an agricultural education class in high school," shared Hall, who is also a teacher at Scottsburg High School. She shared that there are over 100 students enrolled in agricultural education at SHS.

Local residents are very familiar with Scottsburg FFA's annual Ag Day breakfast held in the spring. Guests enjoy a delicious breakfast and only pay 50 cents, which represents how much the farmer would actually receive from the cost of a regularly-paid breakfast. Visitors to various events such as the Scott County Fair, Leota Frolic and Scott County Farmers' Market have also enjoyed food prepared by FFA members.

Many FFA members also help in the high school's greenhouse, which is operated by the students in the Plant and Soil classes. The community is invited to purchase plants, herbs, and produce in the spring. Income from the greenhouse is used to provide supplies for the agricultural classes. FFA engages younger students as well, whether it is through tractor pulls at the Lexington Old Settlers Festival or farm tours for elementary students.

The Scottsburg FFA will now get a boost to support students through a new endowment fund created by former members of the Scott County Cornhuskers Young Farmers Chapter. The Young Farmers Coalition is a nationwide organization that has chapters in each state. Locally, a group of 18 young adults established a chapter in

1975, calling themselves the Scott County Cornhuskers. They would meet monthly in members' homes where they would enjoy a meal and speakers on various topics, such as the feeding methods of cattle and hogs, and corn drying and handling. They took over hosting the annual Ag Day breakfast from the Scott County State Bank. The members completed community service projects a couple times each year. They held an adult tractor pull at the grandstands at the Scott County Fair. They even hosted the state convention in Scott County one year. As members aged and started families of their own, the local chapter disbanded in the late 1990's. There is



still one statewide chapter in existence, the Hoosier Young Farmers Coalition.

One of the Cornhuskers' secondary goals was to support the FFA. Members recently agreed to close an account and donate the proceeds to the Scott County Community Foundation for the benefit of

FFA students. The Cornhuskers-FFA Agricultural Fund will provide grants to Scottsburg FFA each year to support their mission. As a permanent endowment fund, all donations are invested, and only a portion of the earnings are awarded in grants each year. This allows the fund to benefit the community for generations to come.

"We are incredibly grateful to the members of the Cornhuskers who have chosen to create this fund to benefit our FFA chapter," said Hall. "We are looking forward to using this fund to provide new opportunities for our members. Our chapter is blessed with many longtime supporters and we cannot express enough how thankful we are for their continued support."

Hall also shared that the pedal tractor pull that they offer at Lexington Old Settlers Festival was actually started by the Cornhuskers at the county fair. The FFA members took it over when the Cornhuskers disbanded, and students use their tractors and sled.

"Our group was started as continuing education after high school," shared Larry McNeely, a founding member of the Cornhuskers who also helped create the endowment fund at the Community Foundation. "We're very proud to keep helping FFA – it's such a learning experience. Most kids who are in FFA won't go into productive farming but there are so many related jobs that this will help them in the future, whether it's working for an electronics dealer, chemical company, lending institution and more. Companies know that the kids who went through FFA have a good background and work ethic."

"The purpose of this money is to support FFA and agriculture in Scott County," added Dan Smith, another early member of the Cornhuskers. "If we don't support FFA, we'll lose the program. Some of the larger schools no longer have FFA. They also learn other skills, such as leadership. We need to look to the future."

"We are thankful to the group of thoughtful people who have the desire to invest long-term in the future of FFA students," said Scott County Community Foundation Executive Director Jaime Toppe. "Agriculture is a very important part of Scott County, and we are honored to have another fund created to support this area. I encourage those in the community who have a passion for agriculture and FFA to consider growing the Cornhuskers-FFA Agricultural Fund with a donation."



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Looking Forward, Giving Back.

YGC Elects New Leadership, Welcomes New Members

As the YGC headed into a new school year, they elected the following board members into leadership positions: Rachael Mount, President; Addie Borden, Vice President; Emma Bracey, Secretary; Melea Luttrell, Treasurer; Noah Bagwell and Brooks Swank, co-chairs of Grants Committee; Grace Routt, Chair of Asset Development Committee; Kellan Carter and Lucas Toppe, co-chairs of Governance Committee; and Braelyn Kleehammer, chair of Community Service Committee.

Interviews were held for new board members to replace the seniors who graduated. Congratulations to the following who were selected: Audrey Bishop, Ella Copple, Kati Craig, Brynley Culley, Mayson Cutter, Ellie Groenboom, Katie Montgomery, Emma Spaulding, and Landon Toppe. Board members are responsible for all decisions about the YGC in addition to fundraising and grant-making.

Interviews were also held for applicants who wished to become new members of the YGC through the Community Service Committee. We would like to welcome the following: Brendan Hanner and Khloe Watts of Austin High School; Emily Amos and Landon Dillon of Grace Christian Academy; Aven Broadus, Claire Banister, Beau Carter, Taren James, Caroline Justice, Maddix Melker, Griffin Owens, Jaxon Owens, Tracen Roush and Mason West of Scottsburg Middle School; and Caitelynn Ashley of Scottsburg High School.



A few of our college students came back for one last meeting before their terms ended Sept. 30! YGC members also enjoyed our annual police officer appreciation community service project.

